

## SOAR Tutoring Receives Certification

The International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC) has granted SOAR Tutoring Services Level 1 certification. The certification signifies that Shelton State's tutoring program meets national standards for tutor training, data collection, and program elements. The certification also illustrates the tutoring program is a vital component in student learning. Shelton State Community College is the only two-year school in Alabama currently certified, and one of only three post-secondary institutions in the state holding ITTPC Certification.

To gain certification, SOAR Tutoring Services was required to show evidence of tutor training covering specific topics such as Do's and Don'ts of Tutoring, How to Begin and End a Tutoring Session, Listening Skills, and seven additional training areas. Most training is conducted in face-to-face sessions while some trainings are available online via a course in Blackboard. The application for certification included documentation of training materials such as training agendas, sign-in sheets of attendance, and Power-point presentations. Additional training documentation included evaluations of training and validation of at least one tutor completing a minimum of twenty-five hours of tutoring. Data collection provided for certification included student evaluations of tutor sessions, tutor schedules, and tracking reports of students who come for tutoring.

Individual tutors who work in SOAR Tutoring Services can be certified and include this distinction on their résumé. Documentation was provided to ITTPC to show that any tutors certified by SOAR have a minimum of twenty-five hours of one-on-one tutoring experience and have attended a minimum of ten hours of training on separate topics.

Students are appreciative of the efforts made to provide quality tutor services. In the words of Ainsley Crowley, *"I just wanted to give a big thank you to the SOAR Institute and its free tutors. During the course of the summer I took a math class and visited the tutors in SOAR frequently, and with their help I came out of the class with an A! I know I couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you, SOAR staff for your commitment to helping others."* More than 13,500 tutor sessions have been held with students since SOAR was established in the summer of 2011.

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SHELTON STATE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Help for COMPASS

### *SOAR Tutoring Adds Service*

Help sessions for the COMPASS assessment were added to SOAR Tutoring Services this past summer and will continue this fall and spring. The COMPASS, which determines skills, includes three subject areas: mathematics, writing, and reading. Student scores on this assessment place students into appropriate courses at the College. Students should take the test seriously and be aware that this assessment plays a tremendous role in beginning their coursework. The first student who re-tested after coming to help sessions improved her math score twenty-five points while another student improved his English score ten points.

**WHO:** Students who have scheduled a COMPASS session and have been admitted to the College are eligible for assistance. In addition, students who have taken the COMPASS but plan to re-test on any or all portions of the assessment may come to a session.

**WHEN:** Two help sessions per subject area are available. One session per subject is held during the day, and one session per subject is held in the evening. The schedule is available on the College website on the SOAR Tutoring webpage.

**WHAT:** Help sessions are led by trained tutors who specialize in each subject area. An overview of COMPASS is shared followed by working through practice questions as a group and then individually.

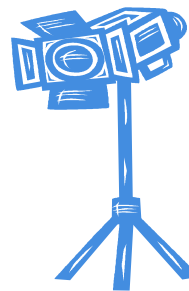
**HOW:** To register for a COMPASS help session, call 205.391.2984. A student's MyShelton "S" number is required for registration.

### *Navigators Make a Difference*

Sharing student success stories helps motivate the SOAR Institute team. Navigators have shared many stories over the last two years. Here is one heart warming story shared by Navigator Tim Law.

A thirty-four-year-old mother is a first time college student and is assigned a navigator. She and her husband have four children. She has been a stay-at-home mom and decided to attend college and earn a degree. She was very fearful the first time we met and unsure if this was something she would be able to accomplish. There were times she would weep in my office because of the pressure of adjusting to the unknown. She felt out of place, incompetent, and unprepared concerning this new task in life, but she was also excited about getting to know more about herself. The first week was strange and at times embarrassing for her, because other than the teacher, she would be the only older student in the classroom. It was a big adjustment for her, especially with today's technology, but she made it through her first day, week, and month of class. She was so proud of herself, because when she got her first progress report filled out; it read all A's.

## Student Success Story



## Personnel Spotlight

### A Conversation with Jan Rogers

Each edition of *SOARing* features one SOAR staff member. This edition spotlights Jan Rogers who was one of the first navigators hired in 2011.

**What prompted you to apply for this position at Shelton State?**

"I applied for the SOAR Navigator position after working just over ten years in the Advising Center. Although I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Advising Center, I was looking for a new and challenging opportunity to help students."

**Where did you work before coming to Shelton State? What was your position? What specifically did that job include?** "My work experience prior to coming to Shelton State is quite diverse. I went from working as a Court Clerk/Magistrate for the City of Demopolis to a medical assistant in several doctor's offices. Upon moving to Tuscaloosa in 1994, I was fortunate enough to be a stay at home mom for several years. As my kids grew up, so did their expenses. I worked six months at Englewood Elementary School as a physical education assistant before the opportunity to work at Shelton State."

**Where did you attend college? What degree have you earned?** "I attended Auburn University and have a B.S. in Education."

**Tell us where you grew up and what led you to pursue this profession.** "I was born in Los Angeles, California. At the time of my birth, my dad was playing professional football for the Los Angeles Rams. After being traded to the Minnesota Vikings and playing several more years, my father began his coaching career in football which took us across the country and back several times. We finally settled down in Alexander City, Alabama, where I graduated from Benjamin Russell High School. I followed my dreams and attended Auburn University. After several program of study changes, I finally settled on a career in education. My program of study at Auburn University was Human Movement Studies. My ultimate goal in life at that time was to be a fitness director on a cruise ship. I quickly learned that life goals sometimes change and life takes us in another direction. After numerous jobs, moves to different cities, children being

born, and major life changes, I finally realized that helping people in an educational environment was part of the plan God had for my life. Within six months of working at Shelton State, I had the opportunity to help a young lady from my home town who had just experienced a very tragic event in her life. Her life was completely turned upside down and she was sitting before me

needing my help. As I spoke with the student and her parent, I realized that her family had been a part of a prayer vigil for my son many years prior, after he was involved in a serious accident. Prayers were answered and my son's life was spared and now God had put me in this young lady's life to help her. This student was successful at Shelton State, and she later transferred to a four-year university. Sometimes we don't know God's plan for our lives, but other times He lets us know where we are supposed to be."

**Tell us about your family.** "I have been married to Rick Rogers for nine years and we have a wonderful blended family of four children. Our oldest daughter, Laura Grace, just recently got married to Brien Howard, and works for CSR Sports Concepts. Our second oldest daughter, Sarah Beth, also just recently got married and she works for WAR Construction. Her husband is Wallace Drury. When our girls were in college, Laura attended the University of Alabama and was a work-study student in the Athletic Department, and Sarah Beth attended Auburn University where she was a cheerleader for two years. Our oldest son, Bryant, lives in Newnan, Georgia, and currently works at Dillard's. He completed EMT Basics and is actively pursuing a profession in the medical field. Our youngest son, Denson, is a senior at Auburn University majoring in Accountancy. He is a member of Sigma Pi fraternity where he serves as Co-Rush Chairman. We also have three dogs: Ellie Mae, a Yorkshire Terrier; Chloe, a Yorkie/Shitzu mix; and Sandy, a 14 year old Cocker Spaniel. I have three grand pups: Bella, Ollie, and Sadie Bell."

**What are some of your interests and hobbies?** "My hobbies and interests generally involve my children and dogs. I absolutely love most sports and follow college football every fall. I enjoy walking for exercise, time at the beach, and playing games on the computer."

**What has been the most challenging thing about working at Shelton State?** "The most challenging aspect of working at Shelton State is learning all of my assigned students' names. I have always been terrible with names, but I am determined to know who my students are when they walk in the door."

**What has been the most rewarding thing about working in SOAR?** "The most rewarding part of working in SOAR is seeing students progress and succeed towards their educational and life goals. Every student is different and every student has a story. Listening to what they say and helping them be the best they can be is what it is all about. Fulfilling the mission statement of the SOAR Institute is my goal each and every day when a student is sitting before me."

**Is there any additional information you would like to share?** "I once was crowned Miss Turtleneck at the annual Turtleneck Turtle Race on Lake Martin."



*Jan Rogers*